

**Rural District Council  
of Morpeth**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**of the**

**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1961**





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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
For the Year 1961.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth  
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present to you my report and that of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the year 1961.

The birth-rate has again fallen slightly and is now a little below the average for England and Wales. The death-rate, too, has fallen by a small margin but is still, slightly above the national average.

There was again a reduction in the number of still-births, of which only 2 occurred, giving the remarkably low rate of 7.38 per 1,000 live and still-births compared with a rate of 18.7 for the country as a whole. The infantile mortality rate, also, was satisfactorily low. Only 4 children died before reaching the age of 1 year and this gives a rate of 14.87 per 1,000 live births while the rate for England and Wales was 21.4. Of these 4 deaths, 3 took place below the age of 1 week.

There was, again, only one new case of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and only one death was attributed to this cause.

Unfortunately, the number of deaths attributed to malignant neoplasms increased by 5 but the death-rate is still slightly lower than the national average.

The provision of a wholesome water supply is of great importance to the community and tends to be a difficult matter in a rural district. The progress made in this connection in recent years has been very satisfactory and it is estimated that 95.74% of the population now has a piped water supply, 94.29% having it piped into the house. It is hoped that further improvement may be brought about, before long, by the provision of a main water supply to the Causey Park area.

The housing problem is still with us and seems to diminish not at all with the passing years.

Finally, I would express my appreciation of the continuing consideration shown to me by Councillors, the co-operation received from all departments of the Council and the work done, and assistance given, by the Public Health Inspectors.

I am,  
Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C.B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Rural District of Morpeth.



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health ) Housing ) Inspector Meat )	MR. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I., S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs.
Additional P.H. Inspector	Mr. J. T. NICHOLSON, R.S.I., S.I.J.B. Meat Inspector's Certs.
Offices of the Medical Officer	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287.
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	Dacre Street, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 793





SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The acreage and boundaries of the Rural District remain unchanged but the Registrar-General's estimate of the population fluctuates in a way which is rather difficult to understand. The figure for mid-1959 showed a decrease of 670 from that for 1958, while the figure for 1960 showed an increase of 440 over the 1959 estimate and, now, the population is estimated to have decreased by 760 between mid-1960 and mid-1961.

The principal industries are agriculture and coal-mining.

During 1961 a very real effort was made to deal with the problem created by the large number of holidaymakers attracted to the Druridge Bay area. The toilet accommodation at Cresswell was enlarged and negotiations and plans were completed which will result in the provision of a public convenience at Blakenoor in the summer of 1962. Unfortunately, excessive cost compelled the abandonment of a scheme to provide facilities at Druridge Farm and Hadston.

Area in Acres .....	79,193
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	
mid-1961 .....	17,120
Rateable Value .....	£204,257
One Penny Rate Produces .....	£837-0-0
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1961) .....	5,200

VITAL STATISTICS. (the figures in brackets are for England and Wales).

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate .....	262	125	137
Illegitimate .....	7	5	2
	269	130	139
Crude Birth Rate .....	15.71 per 1,000		
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.06) per 1,000 .....	16.65 (17.4)		
<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate .....	2	-	2
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ..	7.33 (13.7)		

DEATHS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	173	89	84
Crude Death Rate .....	10.11		
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.23) per 1,000 ..	12.43 (12.0)		
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Heading 30 of the Registrar's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	Nil		
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil (0.33)		

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate .....	3	1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	14.87 (21.4)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	15.27
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	Nil

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate .....	2	1

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
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Legitimate .....	2	1
Rate		

Neonatal Mortality'(Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births) .....	11.15 (15.5)
Rate	

Early Neonatal Mortality'(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live births) .....	11.15
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Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths & Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 live and still births) .....	18.45
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INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	Total under 1 month	3 - 5 months	Total under 1 year.
Congenital Abnormality	1	1	2	-	2
Birth Injury	-	1	1	-	1
Broncho-pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1
Total ...	1	2	3	1	4

The following table gives the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961.
Infantile Deaths under 1 Year	7	5	4	7	8	8	11	7	15	4
Infantile Mortality	24.22	16.45	13.75	26.12	28.57	25.08	33.03	23.33	51.9	14.87

The Registrar-General supplies the following:-

CAUSE OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, (other forms)	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	2
11. " " Lung, Bronchus	5	1
12. " " Breast	-	2
13. " " Uterus	-	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	10	19
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	24	12
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	1
20. Other Heart Diseases	12	12
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	1	-
22. Influenza	1	-
23. Pneumonia	5	5
24. Bronchitis	10	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	2	-
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	7
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
34. All other Accidents	6	2
35. Suicide	-	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
Total	89	84

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT.

	Total No.	% of Total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	62	35.84
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	29	16.76
Malignant Neoplasms	28	16.18
Total	119	68.78

## SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Newcastle General Hospital and additional facilities are now available at Ashington General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:

Specimens sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	4	Not available
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	6	15
General Practitioner	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	1	-
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Faeces for pathogenic organisms	3	-
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Virus examination	-	6
General Practitioner	Throat swabs for pathogenic organisms	9	49
General Practitioner	Paul Bunnell Test	1	-
3 Sensitivity Tests were carried out.			

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances and three drivers are stationed at Broomhill.

Other parts of the Rural District are served by ambulances stationed at Ashington and Morpeth.

Nursing in the Home.

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by Northumberland County Council and nurse-midwives are stationed as follows:-

Scotsgap	1	Meldon	1
Felton	1	Broomhill	1
Widdrington	1	Lynemouth	1

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts are normally served by three nurse-midwives based at Morpeth but owing to shortage of staff in Morpeth these areas may, at times, be served from Ashington.



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council and Clinics are held at the following places and times.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

Acklington (Aerodrome)	alternate Tuesdays	1.30-4p.m.
Burn Church Hall	Thursday 4 wkly intervals	1.30-4p.m.
Linton Miner's Welfare	alternate Fridays	9.30-12 noon
Longhorsley, Rose Cottage	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals	1.30-4p.m.
Lynemouth Methodist Hall	alternate Tuesdays	9.30-12noon-1.30-4p.m.
Pegswood, The Old School	alternate Tuesdays	9.30-12noon-1.30-4p.m.
South Broomhill, Hadston Road	every Wednesday	9.30-12noon-1.30-4p.m.
Widdrington Social Club	every Wednesday	1.30-4p.m.

Toddler's Clinic.

South Broomhill, Hadston Road      Wednesday 4 wkly intervals 9.30-12noon.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Lynemouth Methodist Hall	Tuesday 4wkly intervals	1.30-4.p.m.
South Broomhill, Hadston Road	Wednesday 4 wkly intervals	1.30-4p.m.
Pegswood, The Old School	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals	1.30-4p.m.
Widdrington Social Club	Wednesday 4 wkly intervals	9-30-12 noon.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Lynemouth Methodist Hall	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals	1.30-4p.m.
Acklington (Aerodrome)	Tuesday 4 wkly intervals	1.30-4p.m.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water Supplies.

Tynemouth Corporation is the water undertaker for the Morpeth Rural District. The eastern and most thickly populated part of the area is very adequately supplied with water, which has, for the most part, been satisfactory in quality. The south-western part, too, is now fairly well supplied but there are still some private supplies in the central areas, including Tritlington, Meldon, Hartburn and Longhorsley, which are extremely unsatisfactory as can be seen in the list of samples taken for bacteriological examination.

There is reason to hope that conditions may be improved in the Causey Park, Tritlington area before long as the water authority is making a survey, with a view to providing a main water supply in that part of the district.

No samples were taken of the raw water supplied by Tynemouth Corporation but 22 samples of the chlorinated water in course of distribution were submitted for bacteriological examination and, of these, 19 were satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory. No chemical analysis was done as there has been no evidence that the water is of a plumbo-solvent nature.

The results of the unsatisfactory samples were immediately made known to the water undertakers, who took appropriate action to remedy the faults, which were due to local storage conditions.

Where unsatisfactory private supplies were found, the owners and consumers were notified and, where necessary, further sampling was done to determine the exact situation and cause of the contamination. According to the circumstances found in each case advice and instruction were given as to the best remedy, followed by further sampling and supervision of the suspect supplies.

It is estimated that 95.21% of the houses and 95.74% of the population are served with water supplied through public mains while 93.69% of the houses and 94.29% of the population have the supply piped into the houses.

The following table sets out, by parishes the numbers of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public mains (a) direct to the houses and, (b) by means of standpipes.

Water Supplies From Public Mains.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Direct to Dwelling</u>		<u>From Standpipe</u>	
	<u>No. of Estimated Houses</u>	<u>Population.</u>	<u>No. of Estimated Houses.</u>	<u>Population.</u>
Cresswell	83	243	1	1
East Chevington	984	3317	46	162
Ellington	370	1295	1	2
Hartburn	56	168	4	13
Hebron	87	260	-	-
Hepscott	148	444	2	7
Longhirst	162	486	2	6
Longhorsley	122	427	2	4
Lynemouth	785	2700	-	-

/over



<u>Parish</u>	<u>Direct to Dwelling</u>		<u>From Standpipe</u>	
	No. of Estimated		No. of Estimated.	
	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>
Meldon	73	219	-	-
Mitford	128	380	3	5
Netherwitton	83	249	-	-
Pegswood	755	2546	3	5
Thirston	100	294	-	-
Tritlington	53	159	-	-
Ulgham	672	2203	2	6
Wallington Demesne	121	420	-	-
West Chevington	31	108	4	12
Widdrington	59	224	9	25
	4,872	16,142	79	248

This helps to demonstrate the very considerable improvement which has taken place in recent years, when it is considered that, in 1946, it was estimated that, approximately, 865 (20%) of the houses and 3,244 (20.33%) of the population were still being served by standpipes.

#### Water Samples.

During the year, 121 samples of water were collected and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Newcastle upon Tyne for bacteriological examination.

The following table gives the date and place of collection and the result of each sample:-

<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of Collection</u>	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per <u>100 ml. water.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
1.	Tap, 3, Back Row, Cambo	1 (Type 1.)	10. 1. 61.
2.	Tap, Cottage, Wallington Hall.	180+	10. 1. 61.
3.	Tap, Garden House, Wallington	Nil	10. 1. 61.
4.	Tap, West Earsdon, Morpeth	Nil	17. 1. 61.
5.	Tap, East Earsdon, Morpeth	17	17. 1. 61.
6.	Tap, The Hagg Farm, Causey Park	Nil	17. 1. 61.
7.	Tap, Peigh Hills, Earsdon	3 (Type 1.)	17. 1. 61.
8.	Tap, North High Moor Longhorsley	180+	24. 1. 61.
9.	Tap, Whemleyburn, Longhorsley	5	24. 1. 61.
10.	Tap, Fenrother Lane, Morpeth	3 (Type 1.)	24. 1. 61.
11.	Tap, East Fenrother, Morpeth	Nil	24. 1. 61.
11a.	Tap, Swan Hill, Longhorsley	Nil	31. 1. 61.
12.	Tap, North Birks, Longhorsley	Nil	31. 1. 61.
13.	Tap, Smallburn, Longhorsley	180+	31. 1. 61.
14.	Tap, Middle Fenrother, Longhorsley	180+	31. 1. 61.
15.	Reservoir, Wallington Hall, Cambo	180+	7. 2. 61.
16.	Tap, 5, Back Row, Cambo	Nil	7. 2. 61.
17.	Tap, Marlish Farm, Angerton	Nil	7. 2. 61.
18.	Tap, Peigh Hills, Earsdon	90	14. 2. 61.
19.	Tap, Field Head, Longhorsley	Nil	14. 2. 61.
20.	Reservoir, Fenrother Lane, Morpeth	3 (Type 1.)	14. 2. 61.
21.	Tap, Bridge End Cottages, Felton	13	21. 2. 61.
22.	Tap, West Moor Farm, Thirston	180	21. 2. 61.
23.	Tap, West Howdens, Felton	160	21. 2. 61.

No.	Place of Collection	Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. water.	Date.
24.	Tap, North High Moor Longhorsley	90	21. 2. 61.
25.	Tap, Espley Hall, Morpeth	Nil	28. 2. 61.
26.	Cistern, Espley Hall, Morpeth	Nil	28. 2. 61.
27.	Reservoir, Middle Fenrother	8 (Type 1.)	28. 2. 61.
28.	Tap in house, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	2 (Type 1.)	7. 3. 61.
29.	Tap in garage, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	3 (Type 1.)	7. 3. 61.
30.	Tap, Hedley Wood, Longhorsley	3 (Type 1.)	7. 3. 61.
31.	Tap, Farm Cottage, E/Stobswood	Nil	28. 3. 61.
32.	Tap, Farm Cottage, Chevington Moor	Nil	28. 3. 61.
33.	Tap, Earsdon Hill Farm	5	28. 3. 61.
34.	Tap, Earsdon West Forest	11	28. 3. 61.
35.	Tap, 5, Back Row, Cambo	Nil	5. 4. 61.
36.	Tap, Wallington Court Yard	180+	5. 4. 61.
37.	Tap, Garden House, Wallington	Nil	5. 4. 61.
38.	Tap, Cottage, Netherwitton Hall	Nil	25. 4. 61.
39.	Tap, Park Head, Netherwitton	Nil	25. 4. 61.
40.	Tap, Netherwitton Barns	7 (Type 1.)	25. 4. 61.
41.	Tap, 6, Netherwitton Village	Nil	25. 4. 61.
42.	Tap, Low Heighley, Morpeth	3 (Type 1.)	2. 5. 61.
43.	Well, Hedley Wood, Longhorsley	3 (Type 1.)	2. 5. 61.
44.	Tap, Oaklands, Longhorsley	Nil	2. 5. 61.
45.	Reservoir, Low Heighley, Morpeth	25	9. 5. 61.
46.	Tap, Cottage, Low Heighley	160	9. 5. 61.
47.	Tap, Roselea, Causey Park	14	9. 5. 61.
48.	Land Spring, Oak Inn Causey Park	13	16. 5. 61.
49.	Reservoir, Causey Park Bridge	Nil	16. 5. 61.
50.	Tap, Bywell, Morpeth	90	16. 5. 61.
51.	Reservoir, Bywell, Morpeth	1 (Type 1.)	16. 5. 61.
52.	Tap, Northgate & District Hospital	8	1. 6. 61.
53.	Tap, 12, West View, Northgate & District Hospital	13	1. 6. 61.
54.	Tap, Lough House, Morpeth	35	1. 6. 61.
55.	Tap, Gorfenletch, Morpeth	3	1. 6. 61.
56.	Tap, Northgate & District Hospital	1	6. 6. 61.
57.	Tap, Northgate & District Hospital	Nil	6. 6. 61.
58.	Tap, Eshottheugh, Morpeth	Nil	6. 6. 61.
59.	Tap, Shothaugh, Morpeth	180+	6. 6. 61.
60.	Direct from pipe, Village Green Cresswell.	Nil	20. 6. 61.
61.	Tap, Smallburn, Longhorsley	50	20. 6. 61.
62.	Tap, Haredene, Longhorsley	Nil	20. 6. 61.
63.	Tap, Stanton House, Morpeth	Nil	20. 6. 61.
64.	Tap, Burgham Farm, Felton	35	27. 6. 61.
65.	Tap, Bockenfield Farm, Felton	1 (Type 1.)	27. 6. 61.
66.	Tap, Thirston New Houses, Felton	Nil	27. 6. 61.
67.	Tap, Hemelspeth Farm, Felton	Nil	27. 6. 61.
68.	Tap, Earsdon Moor, Morpeth	Nil	4. 7. 61.
69.	Tap, Earsdon Moor, Morpeth	50	4. 7. 61.
70.	Tap, Home Farm, Eshott	Nil	4. 7. 61.
71.	Tap, New Houses, Causey Park	1 (Type 1.)	4. 7. 61.
72.	Tap, 5, Back Row, Cambo	Nil	11. 7. 61.
73.	Tap, French's Cottage, Wallington	5 (Type 1.)	11. 7. 61.
74.	Tap, Gardener's Cottage, Wallington	Nil	11. 7. 61.
75.	Tap, Ox Inn, Middleton	Nil	11. 7. 61.
76.	Tap, Low Heighley, Morpeth	50	26. 9. 61.
77.	Tap, "Roselea" Causey Park	50	26. 9. 61.
78.	Tap, Burgham Farm, Felton	25	26. 9. 61.
79.	Tap, Bywell Farm, Felton	180+	26. 9. 61.
80.	Tap, The Helm, Morpeth	Nil	3.10. 61.
81.	Tap, Bockenfield Farm, Morpeth	Nil	3.10. 61.
82.	Reservoir, Bockenfield Farm	Nil	3.10. 61.
83.	Tap, Hemelspeth Farm, Felton	Nil	3.10. 61.
84.	Tap, Earsdon, Morpeth	Nil	10.10. 61.
85.	Tap, Peigh Hills, Morpeth	180+	10.10. 61.
86.	Tap, East Linden, Longhorsley	13	10.10. 61.

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<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of Collection</u>	<u>Probable No. of coliform bacilli per 100 ml. water.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
87.	Tap, South Linden, Longhorsley	90	10. 10. 61.
88.	Tap, No. 1, West Stobswood	Nil	17. 10. 61.
89.	Tap, Chevington Moor Farm.	Nil	17. 10. 61.
90.	Tap, 17, Chibburn Av., Hadston	1	17. 10. 61.
91.	Tap, 87, Simonside Terrace East Chevington.	1	17. 10. 61.
92.	Tap, Harelaw, Longhorsley	1	31. 10. 61.
93.	Tap, Smallburn, Longhorsley	25	31. 10. 61.
94.	Tap, Fenrother Lane, Morpeth	17	31. 10. 61.
95.	Tap, 3, Back Row, Cambo	1	7. 11. 61.
96.	Tap, Gardeners Cottage, Wallington	14	7. 11. 61.
97.	Tap, Garden House, Cambo	1	7. 11. 61.
98.	Tap, Corridge, Middleton	1	7. 11. 61.
99.	Tap, Thirston Mill, Felton	Nil	14. 11. 61.
100.	Tap, West Moor Plantation Felton	180	14. 11. 61.
101.	Tap, Shothaugh, Felton	50	14. 11. 61.
102.	Tap, West Howdens, Felton	Nil	14. 11. 61.
103.	Cistern, Peigh Hills, Earsdon	Nil	21. 11. 61.
104.	Tap, Swan Hill, Longhorsley	90	21. 11. 61.
105.	Tap, Ghyllheugh, Longhorsley	5 (Type 1.)	21. 11. 61.
106.	Reservoir, South Linden Longhorsley	1 (Type 1.)	21. 11. 61.
107.	Reservoir, West Moor Plantation	50	28. 11. 61.
108.	Tap, Heatherlands, Longhorsley	Nil	28. 11. 61.
109.	Tap, The Retreat, Longhorsley	Nil	28. 11. 61.
110.	Tap, Linden Hillhead, Longhorsley	Nil	28. 11. 61.
111.	Tap, Gardeners Cottage, Ghyllheugh Longhorsley	11	5. 12. 61.
112.	Reservoir, Ghyllheugh Longhorsley	180+	5. 12. 61.
113.	Tap, Hedley Wood, Longhorsley	1	5. 12. 61.
114.	Tap, Quarry Cottage, Pegswood	1	12. 12. 61.
115.	Tap, The Cottage, Whemleyburn	5 (Type 1.)	12. 12. 61.
116.	Reservoir, Ghyllheugh Longhorsley	180+	12. 12. 61.
117.	Reservoir, Ghyllheugh Longhorsley	180+	12. 12. 61.
118.	Tap, Highburn Farm, Ellington	Nil	19. 12. 61.
119.	Tap, Warkworth Lane Caravan Site Ellington	Nil	19. 12. 61.
120.	Tap, 1, Front Street, Ellington	1	19. 12. 61.
121.	Tap, 1, The Cottages, Longhirst	1	19. 12. 61.

#### Sewerage and Drainage.

Ministry approval was obtained for the provision of a new sewerage system for Ulgham Village.

Extension of the Pegswood sewage disposal plant was completed as also was the sewerage with sea outfall of the coastal village of Cresswell.

Complaints were received from the neighbouring authority Morpeth Borough, of serious pollution of the Cotting burn from properties within the rural district and north of the Borough boundaries.

Upon investigation it was found that there was some justification for complaint although the cause was not entirely the responsibility of the rural authority as the many private properties in the Fulbeck area of the town had also to rely on septic tank sewage systems which drained into the Cotting burn. During dry periods nuisance is pronounced in the lower reaches of the stream.

This nuisance will continue and can be effectively prevented only by co-operation between the two authorities for the extension of a sewer to cater for the private properties in Fulbeck and to continue north westward into the rural district to serve the properties in the Fairmoor area, including the growing Northgate and District Hospital community, which is already

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discharging a considerable volume of effluent to the stream from their existing sewerage disposal system.

This would result in an increased intake at the Morpeth Borough sewerage disposal plant and may even involve further extensions to the plant but would seem to be the logical solution of this serious problem.

#### New Drainage Systems.

New drainage systems with connections to the Council's sewers were provided at:-

Cresswell	7	East Chevington	4.
Ellington	1		

and with connections to septic tanks at:-

Cresswell	1	Earsdon Forest	1.
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Conversion and abolition of conservancy types of sanitary accommodation under the provisions of section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, continues slowly and payment of 50% grant was made in 14 instances.

#### Public Cleansing.

Collection of household refuse throughout the whole of the rural area continued satisfactorily within the limits of existing numbers of employees and available plant.

A new rear-loading collection vehicle was brought into operation and collection journeys were reorganised and rerouted thus enabling the authority to dispose of one old side-loading vehicle and of the last remaining horse and cart scavenging unit which had operated in the East Chevington area since the inception of the direct labour cleansing service in the parishes of East and West Chevington in April, 1941.

The estimated weight of refuse collected from a total of 5,344 dwellings and business premises was 9,104 tons, a reduction on the previous year of 355 tons which is a reflection of the alteration in the nature of refuse from weight to volume.

The cost for collection and disposal, including ancillary services and duties amounted to 29/0.0ld. per ton.

The distance travelled by the four vehicles engaged on these operations amounted to 34,030 miles.

During the year, informal action was taken for the provision of 144 standard dust bins and 61 dust bins were replaced at Council owned dwellings.

#### Refuse Disposal.

The existing disposal sites at Broomhill, East Chevington, Lynemouth, Longhirst, Longhorsley, Pegswood and Widdrington, continued to be used and maintained to the best possible standard. Increasing amounts of paper and cardboard in household refuse continued to create a disposal problem which was not easy of solution on the existing exposed disposal sites with the ever present risk of fire and wind-borne litter nuisance.

Although Planning Permission was obtained for the use of a more central and larger site for the disposal of household refuse, up to the end of the year, agreement regarding a lease of the site had not materialised.



An unusual disposal problem for the department was posed by the washing ashore in the summer, at a popular stretch of beach, of a shark carcass some 19 feet in length and approximately 2 ton in weight. The carcass was eventually cut into sections, manhandled across the beach and up the high dunes into the refuse collection vehicle for final disposal by local chemical merchants.

Every disposal site was regularly inspected and test baited for vermin and / or other nuisance and preventive action taken as found necessary.

visits

A total of 224/ were made on duties connected with the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse.

#### Caravans and Caravan Sites.

The demand for caravan sites for both holiday and residential purposes continued to increase and contrary to expectations the new legislation was not as helpful as had been hoped.

A total of 286 visits were made in the investigation, inspection and control of caravans within the district.

Thirty applications under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 were forwarded to the County Planning Department. Of these, decisions were made in fourteen instances, one being granted unconditionally and thirteen for limited periods only. Site licenses were issued by the Council in accordance with the Planning directives.

A proposal by the Council to provide a residential caravan site at Longhirst Old Colliery was abandoned when it was learned that the estimated cost of development to the standard required by the Planning Committee and the Model Standards would be in the region of £27,600 for a total number of 35 caravans. The demand for such sites continues to increase and something will surely need to be done to cater for this type of living in the near future.

#### Public Conveniences.

In recent years the Council has given much consideration to the provision of public conveniences at places in the Rural District where there was a real need for them but it has been very disheartening to find that the buildings, almost as soon as they are erected, begin to suffer repeated malicious damage at the hands of irresponsible members of the community. The situation of some of these buildings makes close supervision impossible and the Council has had to incur increasing expenditure on maintenance and repair.

A new public convenience was completed during 1961 at Pegswood and, almost immediately, various fittings were seriously damaged by acts of sheer vandalism.

The Council has in previous years provided conveniences at Cresswell, Widdrington, Red Row, and South Broomhill and plans are being made for the erection of one at Lynemouth.

In 1961 further consideration was given to the problem of providing additional facilities in the Druridge Bay area to cater for the very large numbers of summer visitors.



The public convenience at Cresswell was enlarged to accommodate two additional W.Cs.

After negotiations with the N.C.B. a lease was obtained of certain buildings containing toilet facilities at Blakemoor Drift. Plans were prepared for the purpose of enlarging and improving the accommodation, which is expected to be completed in the summer of 1962 and will then be made available to the public.

Plans were also made for the erection of public conveniences at Druridge Farm and Hadston Link House but had to be abandoned because of the excessive cost involved.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The rodent operative continued with his duties of regular inspection and treatment, as found necessary, of all Council properties including buildings and surface structures, refuse tips, sewers and sewerage disposal plants etc. Routine surveys were made of business and agricultural premises as the operative worked through the various areas of the district and the following table gives details of the work undertaken.

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>				(5) Agricultural
	Non-Agricultural				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (Inc. Council Houses)	(3) All other (Inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols (1), (2) & (3).	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	21	5,200	123	5,344	230
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	1	29	9	38	6
(b) Survey under the Act.	20	690	42	752	52
(c) Otherwise (eg. when visited primarily for some other purpose).	-	-	-	-	-
3. Total inspections carried out incl. re-inspections.	102	719	51	872	58
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec 2) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats. (Major	-	-	2	2	2
(Minor	10	124	16	150	3
(b) Mice. (Major	-	-	1	1	2
(Minor	2	48	7	57	1

	<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (Inc. Council Houses.)	(3) All other (Inc. Bus- iness Premises.)	(4) Total of Cols (1), (2) & (3)	
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect 4) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given in Sect. 4).	12	172	26	210	8
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments.	73	172	26	271	8
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act: (a) Treatment (b) Structural Work	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of notice under Sect. 4 of the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
9. Legal Proceedings.	-	-	-	-	-
10. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	-	-	-	-	-

N.B. The above table is a copy of the annual return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to the 12 months ended 31st December, 1961.

#### Mosquito Control.

There were no complaints of mosquito nuisance during the year but the suspected sites were visited and treatment **was undertaken** as found necessary.



FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1959.

There is a total of 39 premises within the area which are registered under the requirements of the Factories Acts. Eight of these premises are without mechanical power.

There are no outworkers within the area.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	8	76	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the L.A.	25	32	1	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers' premises).	6	18	Nil	Nil
Total	39	126	1	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	1	Nil	1	Nil

SECTION D.TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1961.

Altogether 1060 separate visits were made to properties throughout the rural district for the purpose of repair, improvement, eradication of nuisance and other duties under the Housing and Public Health Acts.

Number of Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	18
b) By Other bodies or persons	7

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	12
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	6
3. Houses closed, not demolished	8
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above.	6

Repairs.Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts.

1. By informal action	17
2. By owners, following statutory notice	Nil
3. By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses Patched.

1. Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	Nil
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

A. Discretionary Grants.

No. of separate  
Houses.

1. Applications submitted to L.A. during year	18 (43 Properties).
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	18
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£241-16-10d.
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme.	348

B. Standard Grants.

During the      Total  
Year      to Date.

1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	5	29
2. Number of houses so provided with:		
a) Bath or shower	5	25
b) Wash hand basin	5	25
c) Hot water supply	3	17
d) Water Closet	5	24
e) Food store	2	13



SECTION EINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk.

No. of registered dairies

6

As from 1st January, 1961 milk sampling was taken over by the County Health Department and the following are the results of the samples collected within the rural area:-

Retailers Within Rural District:-

6

Pasteurised

7

Tuberculin Tested

2

Pasteurised - Tuberculin Tested

6

All samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

All pasteurised samples satisfied the Phosphatase Test.

Retailers Outside Rural District:-

4

Pasteurised

9

Tuberculin Tested

3

Pasteurised - Tuberculin Tested

1

All samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

All pasteurised samples satisfied the Phosphatase Test.

One raw tuberculin tested milk sample examined biologically for tuberculosis and Br. Abortus proved negative.

Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lamb	Pigs	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	420	-	-	1142	362	-
Number inspected	420	-	-	1142	362	-
All Diseases except <u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	117	-	-	5	39	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than						
Tuberculosis & Cysticerci	27.857%	-	-	.525%	10.77%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	.552%	-
<u>Cysticercosis Only.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-



Because of staff shortage in the neighbouring authority a total of 90 visits were made to the Morpeth Borough Abattoir for the purpose of assisting with Meat Inspection duties.

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspector.

			lbs.	ozs.
Cooked Ham	1 tin		10	-
Corned Beef	6 tins		30	12
Rice Pudding	2 tins		2	-
Tomatoes	11 tins		7	12
Peaches	4 tins		4	-
Pineapple	1 tin		1	-
Steak	1 tin		-	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mushroom soup	1 tin		-	15
Peas	1 tin		-	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chopped Pork	1 tin		4	-
Pilchards in Tomatoes	1 tin		1	-

#### Food Premises.

- (a) The number of food premises registered in the area by type of business is as follows:-

Butchers	6
Bakers	3
General Dealers	51
	<u>60</u>

- (b) The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

Butchers	6
Fried Fish Shops	3
Sale of Ice-Cream	43
No. of Registered Dairies	6
	<u>58</u>

There were two additions to the register during the year involving 1 for the manufacture of ice-cream and one for the sale of ice-cream.

Altogether 886 visits were made to food premises and I am pleased to report that the general standard of hygiene remains good. Every effort is made to maintain this high standard by regular visits and by the distribution of educational posters etc.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUSAND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Age Unknown	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years and over.	Total
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	6
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Measles	-	12	75	89	105	13	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	302
Total	-	12	78	89	111	15	2	3	5	1	2	2	1	321

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.Measles.

Following the almost complete absence of the disease from the district in 1960, the expected, biennial, outbreak of Measles occurred in 1961.

The epidemic began in February in Scotsgap and Cambo where it continued throughout the month of March, during which month it spread to the Broomhill and East Chevington area. Pegswood and Lynemouth were mainly affected in May, Widdrington in June and Netherwitton and Longhorsley in July.

In all, 302 cases were notified, of which 67 occurred in March, 101, in April, 72 in May and 37 in June. As usual, most of those affected were young children, 272 of the cases being under the age of 8 years.

There were no deaths.

Food Poisoning.

The two cases of food poisoning occurred about the same time in schoolboys in different parts of the district and both were due to Salmonella Enteritidis but there was no ascertainable connection between them. In neither case could the source of the infection be ascertained.



Diphtheria.

For the twelfth consecutive year there was no case of this disease, which has not caused a death since 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 273 pre-school and 7 school children completed a primary course of treatment, while 358 pre-school and 207 school children received re-inforcing injections.

Polionyelitis Vaccination.

Acceptance of this form of protection against Poliomyelitis continued at a fairly satisfactory level, particularly for infants and young children. During the year 3,191 persons completed the primary course of two injections and 2,442 received a third injection. In the spring of the year, a fourth injection was recommended for children between the ages of 5 years and 12 years, whose third injection had been given not less than one year previously. As a result of this, 5,609 children received a fourth injection.

These figures refer to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1961.

Age Groups	New Cases					Deaths.				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Total	Resp		Non-Resp		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
45 - 54 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
75 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R.D. 0.0584 per 1,000

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales. 0.065 per 1,000

Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth Rural District Nil

Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales 0.007 per 1,000

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1961.

Site	Males						Females.					
	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75 years & over	Total	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75 years & over	Total
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Lung and Bronchus	-	1	2	2	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	1
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Pancreas	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Liver and Gall-bladder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Abdomen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	2
Generalised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Rectum	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vulva	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Bladder	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bone	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Haematopoietic System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total	-	2	3	4	2	10	2	5	5	5	1	18

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District  
Death Rate in England and Wales

0.350 per 1,000  
0.494 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District  
Death Rate in England and Wales

1.285 per 1,000  
1.670 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District  
Death Rate in England and Wales

1.635 per 1,000  
2.164 per 1,000







